



COURSE DATA

DATA SUBJECT

Code: 33870

Name: History of the present-day world

Cycle: Undergraduate Studies

ECTS Credits: 6

Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1006 - Degree in History of Art	Facultat de Geografia i Història	1	Second quarter
1902 - Formación para la cualificación específica en Geografía, Historia de España	Facultat de Geografia i Història	1	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1006 - Degree in History of Art	Interdisciplinary knowledge common to the degrees of History and Hist. of art	BASIC
1902 - Formación para la cualificación específica en Geografía, Historia de España	Historia del Mundo Contemporáneo	ELECTIVES

COORDINATION

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SUMMARY

The primary objective of this course is to provide an introduction to the political, social, economic, and cultural processes of contemporary world history, from the aftermath of World War II (1945) to the present day. Special emphasis will be placed on historical dynamics that are directly related to current global challenges, with a focus on both European and international perspectives. Priority will be given to the analysis of broad, global processes over the exhaustive study of detailed events.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE



There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Students must demonstrate correct oral and written expression in either of the two official languages of the University of Valencia (clear writing free of spelling errors), as well as reading comprehension, critical thinking, and basic knowledge of contemporary world history.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Be able to apply the basic knowledge acquired by means of applying critical reasoning to the analysis and assessment of alternatives.

Capacidad para transmitir información, tanto oral como escrita, a un público tanto especializado como no especializado.

Desarrollar un aprendizaje autónomo y las habilidades necesarias que favorezcan las relaciones interpersonales.

Have an updated knowledge of bibliography and ability to analyse it critically, and be able to make a synthesis from a critical stand.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

BLOCK I

Consequences of World War II. The memory of war and dictatorships since 1945.

BLOCK II

The bipolar world. The Cold War (1947¿1991). Decolonization and the Third World.

BLOCK III

Social and economic models (1945¿1991). The evolution of capitalism since 1945 and its paradigms. The communist model.

BLOCK IV

The world we live in (1991¿2025). New international order and globalization. Current uncertainties, challenges, and threats.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES



Activity	Hours
Theory	45,00
Classroom practices	15,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	30,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	30,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

There will be three hours of face-to-face lessons per week, i.e., activity in the regular classroom of the subject or group. These hours will be distributed as follows:

- Theoretical sessions constitute 2/3 of the total face-to-face hours (30 hours/course, two hours per week). During them, the teacher will present and explain those fundamental elements that should guide the students in understanding the subject in question.
- Practical sessions make up 1/3 of the total number of classroom hours (15 hours/course, one hour per week). During this time, the most important or significant aspects of the subject will be studied in depth, using different materials. The sessions will be used to introduce students to the use of the materials and techniques of the historical discipline and, specifically, of the specific sources for the study of the history of the contemporary world after 1945.

PREPARING THEORETICAL LESSONS consists of compulsory reading of manuals, monographs or texts as indicated by the faculty, as well as their participation in class.

PREPARING PRACTICAL WORK consists of the obligatory reading of the indicated bibliography, the work of analysis on the documentation and sources around the topic of study and, if applicable, the writing of practical works.

COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES will be devoted to the viewing, consultation and subsequent discussion and sharing around audiovisual, graphic, documentary, literary or other materials, chosen by the teacher and of special relevance for the understanding of certain topics or aspects of the program. Likewise, attendance to exhibitions, conferences, round tables, etc. can be programmed.

TUTORIALS

- a) Scheduled tutorials:



Where appropriate, the professor may communicate the realization of a series of interviews with the students for the follow-up of the different activities of the course.

b) **Unscheduled tutorials:** The students of a group may attend the hours of attention to students that each professor has in general, to make inquiries about any topic or aspect related to the subject.

EVALUATION

The evaluation criteria and procedures for this course are as follows:

1. **Assessment of theoretical content:**
This will be based on the content covered in the different blocks of the syllabus throughout the course. This component will represent **70%** of the final course grade.
2. **Assessment of practical content and activities:**
This will include readings, primary sources, written or graphic documents, films, audiovisual materials, etc., related to the course content and discussed in class. Active participation, attendance, and critical engagement with complementary activities may also be assessed. This component will represent **30%** of the final course grade.

Evaluation may be carried out either by assessing each component separately (via written exams, assessments, assignments, etc.), or by integrating both theoretical and practical components into a single or multiple written exams, always maintaining the stated 70-30% weighting.

To pass the course, students must demonstrate adequate written communication skills (in terms of both exposition and terminology) appropriate to the standards of higher education in either of the official languages of the University of Valencia. Clear, well-structured writing with correct spelling is required. Written exams will also assess students' knowledge, analytical reasoning, and ability to establish connections between concepts.

An annex to the Course Guide may specify, where applicable, the minimum grade required in written assessments to include those results in the final evaluation.

The second examination session will have the same requirements and grading percentages as the first. In this case, the grades obtained during the first session can be carried over, except for those activities that, due to their in-person nature and design (such as complementary activities, practicals, and active class participation), are not recoverable.

Grades will only remain valid for the current academic year.

Additionally, specific guidelines regarding the organization and dynamics of each group will be provided at the beginning of the course by the responsible instructor, as an annex to this document.



REFERENCES

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- ARACIL, R. y otros: *El mundo actual. De la Segunda Guerra Mundial a nuestros días*, Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona, 1995.
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- KERSHAW, Ian: *Ascenso y crisis. Europa 1950-2017: un camino incierto*, Barcelona, Crítica, 2019.
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PROCACCI, G., *Historia general del siglo XX*. Crítica, Barcelona, 2007.

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TUSELL, J.: *Una breve historia del siglo XX*, Madrid, Espasa Calpe, 2001

VEIGA, F., UCELAY DA CAL, E. y DUARTE, A.: *La Paz Simulada. Una historia de la Guerra Fría*. Madrid, Alianza Universidad, 1997.

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COMPLEMENTÀRIES/COMPLEMENTARIAS/COMPLEMENTARY

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